

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

*For consideration at the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on
June 3, 2026*

1. **Creating a Low Income Transit Pass to Increase Efficiency, Ridership, and Equity**

Submitted by: Councillor Orr

WHEREAS

1. TransLinkBC has the 3rd highest ridership in Canada, outside of Toronto's TTC and Montreal's STM;
2. Affordable transportation is linked to better social well-being and health outcomes;
3. TransLinkBC has increased fares by 4% in 2025 and will raise fares by 5% this year;
4. TransLink does have a reduced fare program, however, only those 65 and older, as well as those with disabilities only qualify;
5. TransLink staff recommended in 2024 that a low-income pass be explored under the guise of equity, and the Mayor and Council approved it;
6. Vancouver is the only major Canadian city without a low-income transit pass for all ages;
7. By expanding economic equity across transit, efficiency among routes increases; and
8. Currently, cities like Halifax, Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton, and Calgary all have low-income transit passes for all ages.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to seek to work with TransLink to identify cost and cost structures of a \$25 a month low-income transit pass for those earning less than \$40,000 a year.
- B. THAT Council seek to enter in conversation with TransLink to see if there is interest in a cost sharing scheme for this program.
- C. THAT Council ask the Mayor to write a letter in support to the province of British Columbia in support of this low-income transit pass scheme.
- D. THAT Council seek to work with TransLink in tandem to lobby the provincial government to provide the necessary funding for a low income transit pass.

- E. THAT Council ask the Mayors Council to recommend TransLink perform a feasibility study for a low-income transit pass, beyond what is already available to see if the \$60-70 million estimate has increased since last year.
- F. THAT Council ask the province to outline what sort of funding at the City and provincial level would be necessary to create a “fair fare” low-income transit pass program for Skytrain and Buses.
- G. THAT Council direct staff to see if any grant exists or to create a grant that would assist TransLink in subsidizing a low-income transit pass for Vancouver residents.

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